**PILGRIMS OF HOPE: REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY (6TH REFLECTION)**

**ANCHORED IN HOPE**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hopefor the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

**READINGS FOR REFLECTION**

**Hebrews 6: 18 – 20**

… so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Pope Francis’ Homily November 1, 2013**

And today… we need to think a little about this hope: this hope that accompanies us in life. The first Christians depicted hope with an anchor, as though life were an anchor cast on heaven’s shores and all of us journeying to that shore, clinging to the anchor’s rope. This is a beautiful image of hope: to have our hearts anchored there, where our beloved predecessors are, where the saints are, where Jesus is, where God is. This is the hope that does not disappoint; today and tomorrow are days of hope”

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

* In what ways can you “seize the hope before us” in your daily activities?
* In what ways has hope been a “sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” for you or others whom you know?

**LEARN MORE ABOUT HOPE IN POPE FRANCIS’ BULL OF INDICTION**

Take a moment to reflect on the following aspects of hope as noted by Pope Francis in the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee:

• “Hope is the virtue that gives inward direction and purpose to the life of believers.” (18)

• “I believe in life everlasting”. So, our faith professes. Christian hope finds in these words an essential foundation. For hope is ‘that theological virtue by which we desire…eternal life as our happiness”. (19)

• “The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope.” (20)

• “Christian hope consists precisely in this: that in facing death, which appears to be the end of everything, we have the certainty that, thanks to the grace of Christ imparted to us in Baptism, ‘life is changed, not ended’, forever.” (20)

• “The Jubilee offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death’s drama.” (20)

• “The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope, which transcends life’s fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals, makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called.” (25)

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR LEARN MORE ABOUT HOPE**

* What resonated with my own thinking?
* What challenged my own thinking?
* What piqued my interest?

**DISCERNMENT AND A CALL TO ACTION**

This Jubilee Year will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope. (Spes Non Confundit, 25)

* What learning, during this Year of Jubilee, can be applied to strengthening my interpersonal relationships?
* What steps can be taken individually / as families / as communities to promote
	+ the dignity of all persons
	+ respect for God’s gift of creation?
* How can this Jubilee Year be a springboard to help those in our communities who might be struggling to find hope?